Setting up of Mumbai Rail Development Corporation

457. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR
SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up the 'Mumbai Rail Development Corporation' to oversee the Mumbai Urban Transport Project Phase II;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the circumstances leading to the setting up of the new Corporation; and

(c) the steps so far taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The World Bank have given some project preparatory assistance to Indian Railways and Government of Maharashtra for the road component and rail component of MUTP-II. They are agreeable to funding MUTP-II provided a proper institutional framework for co-ordination, execution, and implementation of the project including the rail component has been created. Keeping in view these aspects the Ministry of Railways decided to set up a Mumbai Rail Development Corporation.

(c) A draft MOU proposed to be signed between the Government of India (Ministry of Railways) and Government of Maharashtra has been drawn up envisaging 51% equity participation by Ministry of Railways and 49% by Government of Maharashtra. The process of seeking Cabinet approval has been initiated.

Hike in railway passenger fares

458. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR
SAM BHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to raise railway passenger fares, including those for daily commuters, and to withdraw the subsidies on freight in respect of essential commodities;

(b) if so, the details in the regard, indicating estimated per annum additional revenue to be obtained thereby; and

(c) how far the additional earnings would suffice to meet the added expenditure resulting from implementation of 5th Pay Commission Report for Railway Employees?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) At present there is no proposal to increase the passenger fares. Adjustment of freight rate of selected commodities has been made w.e.f. 15.10.1997 by partially withdrawing concession enjoyed by these commodities in the past, and also by increasing the freight rate for Coal by an average of 3.6 percent.

(b) The estimate of additional revenue from this adjustment in freight rates of selected commodities is Rs. 526 crores.

(c) Besides the hike in freight charges, the Railways are taking various measures to augment earnings and to control expenditure, as a result of which there is no likelihood of any shortage of funds.

Regularisation of employees of Railways Institutes

459. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is considering to grant regular Railway staff status to Railway Institutes employees, who are presently considered as Quasi Railwaymen;

(b) whether the Ministry has received any representation in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken on the above?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.